



Director of
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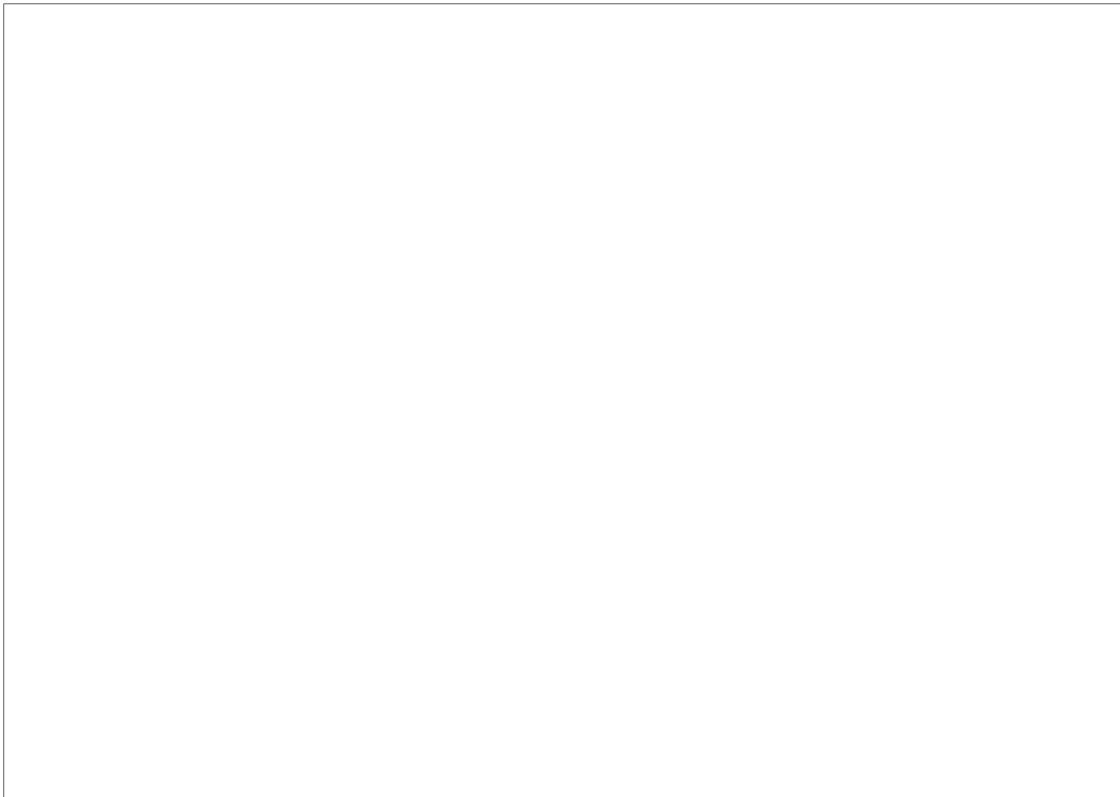
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① CHINA-USSR: Beijing's Version of the Talks

The official Chinese account of the first round of talks with the Soviets is generally consistent [redacted] and indicates that the lack of agreement has not altered Beijing's intention to continue the consultations. [redacted]

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According to the Chinese, there were "great differences of view" in the talks, which dealt exclusively with state-to-state relations. China pushed hard on the major issues--Soviet troops on its border and the USSR's positions on Vietnam, Mongolia, and Afghanistan. [redacted]

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1/3 The Chinese said they told the Soviets that, if these obstacles are removed, contacts may be developed in economic, trade, scientific, cultural, and other areas. They also said the Soviets proposed signing a document on principles to regulate relations. [redacted]

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Comment: The apparent linkage by China of the signing of cultural and other agreements to Soviet willingness to meet conditions on the major issues gives Beijing room to maneuver. China may have taken this line with the Soviets in the first round to put pressure on them to meet its demands on at least one of the major issues. There are indications that Beijing does intend to move forward on these agreements with Moscow and may do so early next year. [redacted]

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